

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H. 3175**

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TO: The Honorable Joe E. Brown, Chairman, House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs
Committee

FROM: Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board

ANALYSTS: R.J. Stein, Tricia Tangney

DATE: January 28, 2005 SBD: 2005078

AUTHOR: Representative Davenport PRIMARY CODE CITE: 40-25-10

SUBJECT: Hearing Aid Specialists--Licensing

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

A Cost of Federal and/or Other Funds (See Below)

BILL SUMMARY:

House Bill 3175 amends Chapter 25, Title 40 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by transferring the responsibility for licensing and regulating Hearing Aid Specialists from the Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC) to the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR); and by conforming the language in this Chapter to the statutory and organizational framework established for professional and occupational boards.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Department of Health & Environmental Control

The Department currently administers the "Practice of Specializing in Hearing Aids Act" by providing one part-time State-funded FTE, and spends an additional \$2,078 in State funds and approximately \$5,100 in fees collected for the licensure of hearing aid specialists, annually. The current fee structure is set by regulation and is significantly less than that required to operate the licensing program. If only the \$2,078 in State funds and the license fee revenues were transferred from DHEC to LLR, there would be no cost to DHEC as a result of this transfer. (Since the part-time FTE also performs other DHEC functions, the FTE and associated salary and fringe benefits would not be transferred to LLR.)

Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

The Department estimates that implementation of this Bill would require Other Fund expenditures totaling \$45,698. This cost includes part-time services for an administrator, investigator and Administration Specialist I (.40) FTE at \$19,448 and other operating expenses at \$26,250. Any expenditure incurred would be offset by Other fund revenues from license fees generated by the Department.

SPECIAL NOTES:

The Board of Economic Advisors is the appropriate agency to address any revenue impact of this legislation.

Approved by:



Don Addy
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget